

skiing

cross country



CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST "CELEBRATING 100 YEARS" 1908-2008

The sound of your skis across the new snow. Gliding through the trees. The scent of balsam as you rush down the hill, the herringbone tracks as you scurry up... this is skiing at its best. There are over 298 miles of non-motorized trails on the Chippewa National Forest. Listed below are suggested cross-country ski areas, both groomed and non-groomed trails.

PREPARATION

Winter safety is a very important consideration, even on short trips. Most trails are not adjacent to businesses or services. Skiers are advised to inquire at national forest offices about local conditions and bring area maps, drinking water, warm emergency clothing and high calorie snacks. These trails give the skier a sense of the diversity of the Forest, whether in the birches of Suomi Hills or hilltops and wetlands of Shingobee. However, conditions can change rapidly. Check the weather and be prepared for changing conditions. Please respect the trail and other skiers. Enjoy the trail.

AREAS RECOMMENDED

Shingobee Recreation Area

Nestled along the rolling hills of the Shingobee River Valley, the Shingobee Recreation Area is located five miles southwest of Walker, Minnesota, along State Highway 34. Cross-country skiers enjoy the rolling hills and open vista at top of the Ski Hill. Shingobee offers six miles (9.4 km) of trails for cross-country skiing in the heart of Minnesota's northwoods. These ski trails are intermediate to advanced and are groomed intermittently (single-track) through the winter.

Suomi Hills

The remote setting of the Suomi Hills area is graced with rolling hills and clear lakes. Suomi Hills is located about nine miles south of Marcell and 14 miles north of Grand Rapids off State Highway 38,

along the "Edge of the Wilderness" National Scenic Byway. Suomi is one of our most popular cross-country trails for intermediate and advanced skiers. The trails are groomed and track-set.

Migizi (Bald Eagle) Trail

The Migizi trail is located four miles east of Cass Lake. The trail section through Norway Beach is groomed only for special winter events at the Visitor Center. All levels of skiers will enjoy the red and white pines through the Norway Beach Recreation Area. The gentle terrain and beautiful forest along the Migizi around Pike Bay makes for a great day of skiing or snowshoeing.

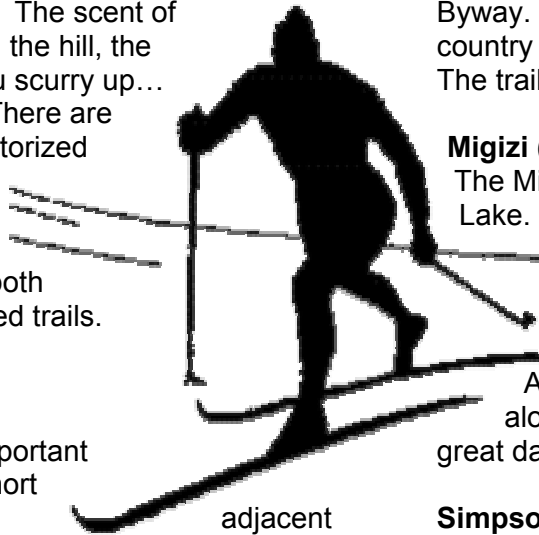
Simpson Creek

The 13-mile Simpson Creek Trail system is located on State Highway 46, about 17 miles northwest of Deer River, Minnesota. Access to the trail can be gained at the Cut Foot Sioux Visitor Center off Highway 46 or off Eagle Nest Road (FR 2198). Each winter, a candlelight ski event is held at the Cut Foot Sioux Visitor Center. Luminaries guide visitors along a one mile groomed loop of the Simpson Creek Trail. All levels of skiers will enjoy this free special event.

Trout Lake, Joyce Estate

Trout Lake SemiPrimitive Non-motorized area is located one mile east of Highway 38, 16 miles south of Marcell, Minnesota. Start at the parking area off Co. 335, south of Trout Lake. This short three-mile groomed trail ends at the historic Joyce Estate, a 1920's Adirondack-Style Estate. Interpretive signs tell the story of this lumber baron's retreat. Skiers can continue an additional 3 miles past the Estate, but this section is ungroomed.

If you have questions about your winter adventure contact the Chippewa National Forest at 218-335-8600 or www.fs.fed.us/forests/chippewa. Maps, information on parking and trail conditions can be obtained at the Supervisors Office or any district office.



cross country skiing on the chippewa

Shingobee Winter Sports Playground

In the early 1930's the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) developed ski runs, trails and even a tobaggan slide at Shingobee Hills. Max von Dalen, a German winter sports specialist, worked with the CC crews to build one of Minnesota's first downhill ski areas. The Forest Service, CCC and local community built the warming chalet and tow ropes in the late 1930's. Volunteers taught ski lessons, and skiers were shuttled from Walker as they came to experience this winter "fad".

The Shingobee Winter Sports Playground operated until 1984. Today, Shingobee is still known for it's great tobaggan runs and cross-country ski trails. The Chalet is open as a warming house on winter weekends.



Trail Name	Distance	Map Available	Groomed Nordic skiing unless noted	Comments
Carter Lake	3 miles	Y	N	Hunter/Walking, Ski Tour, Snowmobiling, Parking area not plowed
Meadow Lake	14 miles	Y	N	Hunter/Walking, Ski Tour, Parking area not plowed
Webster Lake	7 miles	Y	N	Hunter/Walking, Ski Tour, Access from Forest Road 2207
Cut Foot Sioux	22 miles	Y	N	Follows Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail
Simpson Creek	13 miles	Y	N	Through cedars, along lakes and eskers. Hiking and Skiing Annual candlelight ski program
Miller	.8 miles	Y	N	Hiking, Geologic Site Access from groomed S. Suomi Trail
Suomi	21 miles	Y	Y	Rolling Hills, Semi-primitive, Non-motorized
Trout Lake	6 miles	Y	Y	Hiking, Skiing, 3 miles of trail groomed into Historic Joyce Estate
Goose Lake	12 miles	Y	Y	Hunter/Walking, Ski Tour State Ski Permit Required
Shingobee	6 miles	Y	Y (Intermittently)	National Recreation Trail, Rolling Hills and Scenic Vistas. Skiing and sledding.
Migizi	19 miles	Y	N	Circles Pike Bay and travels through the Norway Beach Recreation Area

